

# **MIRACLE OF THE STAR**

**THE CHAIN THEATRE**

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Written and produced by Makie & Jerel Armstrong

## **CAST**

Misuzu Hirano, Ethan Mathias, Jerel Armstrong,  
Mio Nakanishi, Hizuru Maruyama, Kenneth Kyle Martinez,  
Katie Marsh, Reona Tanaka

## **Musicians**

Satoko Mori (Piano), Julie Armstrong (Viola)

## **Director / Sound Director**

Christos Alexandrou

## **Writer**

Makie & Jerel Armstrong

## **Composers**

Jerel Armstrong, Yuka Katsube, Kotani Shibuki

## **Lighting design**

Julian Ghadimi

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## **DATES & VENUE**

4/4 Sat 2:00

4/5 Sun 3:40

4/10 Fri 6:00

4/12 Sun 5:20

The Chain Theater Main Stage  
312 36thSt (Bet 8th &9th Ave)

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## **MUSICAL NUMBERS**

Mike's Reading.....Young Hiro & Young Mike  
How Can I Go Back.....Hiro, Masa & Paul  
Future World.....Hiro & Mike  
Disaster.....Janice, Mike, Paul & Hiro  
Rocket spaceship to the Sky.....Masa & Mike  
My Destiny.....Hiro, Masa, Janice, Mike, Young Mike and Paul  
What I adore.....Young Hiro & Hiro  
Open Your Eyes.....Young Hiro & Young Mike  
Finale.....All

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# CAST

Misuzu Hirano.....	Young Hiro
Ethan Mathias.....	Young Mike
Jerel Armstrong.....	Paul
Mio Nakanishi.....	Hiro(4/4,5)
Hizuru Maruyama.....	Hiro (4/10,12)
Kenneth Kyle Martinez.....	Mike
Katie Marsh.....	Janice
Reona Tanaka.....	Masa

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**MISUZU HIRANO** (Young Hiro), born and raised in Japan, Misuzu Hirano began her training in choir before pursuing dance and vocal studies. In 2019, she appeared in Anne of Green Gables, touring nationwide, and received the Special Jury Prize at the 2nd TOKYO National Musical Singing Competition. Since relocating to New York in 2024, she has performed as Young Hiro in Miracle of the Star, appeared in the NYC Japan Parade and the New York Travel & Adventure Show, and performed alongside Joe Coleman at the Harlem Arts Alliance Town Hall Meeting. Instagram: @misuzu\_Hirano

**ETHAN MATHIAS** (Young Mike) is so excited to be part of Miracle of the Star again!. He lives in NYC and is a student in the pre-college voice program at the Manhattan School of

Music. His solo cabaret show - Outside the Lines, debuted in 2025 and won the MAC Award for New York Debut - Male and the BroadwayWorld Award for Debut Show - Run of Shows. Recent film credits: an appearance on The Fall & Rise of Reggie Dinkins (NBC) with Daniel Radcliffe & Tracy Morgan; Teenage Waistband, written by Lee Wilk of. Select theatre credits: The Last Boy (NYC-Off-Broadway), School of Rock (Lawrence, Tuacahn). He is a fellow with the Flutie Foundation. This fall, Ethan will attend Mannes School of Music to study Vocal Performance in the studio of Arthur Levy. He is represented by Rebel Creative Group and Take 3 Talent.

**JEREL ARMSTRONG** (Paul) was born in the Bronx, New York. He has

appeared in numerous musicals in and around the Bronx since he was 11 years old. He is a graduate of Pace University's Theater Department and New York University's Graduate School of Theater Education. While he was in school, he wrote his own musical, Solrac God. He played the title role of Othello in his graduation performance. After graduating, he became an English teacher and taught drama classes after school. Currently he focuses on teaching English pronunciation to foreigners aiming to become actors in New York. He also works with his wife, Armstrong Makie, to translate scripts and contributes to the production of original works in Japan and the United States. He is a composer for The World Voice Ensemble Inc.

**MIO NAKANISHI** (Hiro) is delighted to return to the World Voice Ensemble family in Miracle of the Star. She is a graduate of AMDA, Ballet Arts, HB Studio in NYC, and Osaka College of Music in Japan. Her favorite credits include Avenue Q (Christmas Eve), The King and I (Lady Thiang, Eliza), Miss Saigon (Mimi, Yvonne), NAAP productions including The Pajama Game and Maya, and TWVE's Angels at Work. She performed in Jaws at Universal Studios Japan and is also trained in traditional Japanese dance. She sings monthly with the NAAP Broadway Chorus at the Edison Hotel. She

would love to thank everyone who made it possible for her to be on stage today. Instagram:

@happy\_me\_in\_new\_York

**HIZURU MARUYAMA** (Hiro) is thrilled to be part of the World Voice Ensemble. She graduated from Shobi Music College, where she majored in musical theatre, and continued her studies at the Toho Musical Academy before joining Shiki Theatre Company. Her credits include performing as an ensemble member in the Japanese premiere of Disney's musical The Hunchback of Notre Dame. She has also appeared as a backup dancer on NHK's Kohaku Uta Gassen and as a backing vocalist at the Imperial Theatre in Tokyo.

Since moving to New York, she has performed in musicals such as Jane Eyre and participated in a variety of live performances and events.

Instagram: @hizu.m

**KENNETH KYLE MARTINEZ** (Mike) can most recently be seen jumping around and dying in the Darren Aronofsky film Caught Stealing. As a multifaceted artist, Kenneth has been seen both on and off the stage and screen for the past 20 years. Credits include: Hunchback of Notre Dame (original cast & cast album), Beauty and the Beast (2017 Film - principle singer), Into the Woods (WST), It's About Time (Bleecker Street Theatre), Les Mis (Performance Riverside), JCS (Secret

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Theatre). Film/TV: Ray Donovan, Quantico, Human Capital, Now's Not The Best Time, Just Sayin'!

**KATIE MARSH** (Janice) is excited to be working with the World Voice Ensemble again. Some past credits include Rachel in *The Stalker*, Kim MacAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Tilly in *She Kills Monsters*, Ann Deever in *All My Sons*, Helen in *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, Cordelia in *King Lear*, Helena in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Pasquala in *FuenteOvejuna*. She's toured all over the country with Boston's Chamber Theatre sharing the works of Edgar Allen Poe and Washington Irving, Hampstead Stage Players in *Beauty in the Beast* and *The Christmas Carol*, *The Prince and The Pauper*, and *Pinocchio*, and Missoula Children's Theatre. In her time off she loves to dance, sing, and role-play with her daughter.

**REONA TANAKA** (Masa) is a singer and musical theater performer active in both Japan and the United States. He made his Off-Broadway debut in the leading role of *Angels at Work* and has appeared twice on the Apollo Theater stage in New York through *Amateur Night*. In Japan, he has performed at major venues including Showa Women's University Hitomi Memorial Hall through musical theater vocal showcases.

His stage credits include *Angels at Work* at Acorn Theater, *Miracle of the Star*, *Franklyn Pierce* *Dragon Slayers*,

*MINORU*: *Scrape the Sky*, *Three Sketches: Yabu*, and the concert *A Showcase of Contemporary Musical Theater* at Mesm Tokyo. He has also appeared in *Show Tunes: A Musical Concert* and other live performance projects.

In addition to musical theater, Reona has trained and performed across multiple genres including gospel, classical, jazz, and contemporary musical repertoire. His artistic work is shaped by both Japanese and New York performance culture, and he continues to develop as a cross-cultural performer with a strong focus on storytelling through song.

Instagram: @reona12261226

**MAKIE HIRAKAWA**

**ARMSTRONG** (Writer / Producer) was born in Kanagawa Japan and is the President of the World Voice Ensemble. She graduated as a voice major from the Tokyo College of Music, and has performed as an opera and musical theater singer with the Shiki Theatrical Company, The New National Theater of Tokyo, and The Fujiwara Opera Company. Some of her credits include *The Phantom of the Opera* Directed by Harold Prince (Shiki), *Aida* directed by Franco Zeffirelli, (The New National Theater, Tokyo). She came to New York to study theater in 2000. Shortly after she played the role of Lady Thiang in *The King and I* (Weston Playhouse and Arkansas Rep

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Theater) she created the World Voice Ensemble to give international artists the opportunity to realize their dream of performing in America. She has been doing musical theater workshops in Japan and New York for years. Her most memorable directing experience involved directing an original musical "Angels at Work" which got into the New York New Works Theater Festival at the Acorn Theater. She is a member of the Actors Equity Association.

**CHRISTOS ALEXANDROU** (Director/ Sound Director) is director, musical director, and multidisciplinary artist whose work centers on music as a vehicle for storytelling and cultural connection. A UNESCO award recipient, he has performed and collaborated internationally as a recording singer, songwriter, and composer, with work presented at venues including Carnegie Hall and the Athens Concert Hall. With a background in musical theater, vocal performance, composition, and music direction, Alexandrou brings a performer-centered, music-driven approach to directing new work. His artistic voice draws from Greek heritage, contemporary pop, and folk traditions, shaping original projects that balance emotional honesty with theatrical energy. He holds a Master's degree in Music Technology and continues to explore innovative approaches to

sound, performance, and narrative through original theatrical work. Now in his tenth year working with The World Voice Ensemble, with his role as the director, and arranger, Alexandrou is deeply committed to the development of new musical theater and collaborative storytelling. Links:

<https://linktr.ee/ChristosAlexandrou>

**SATOKO MORI** (Piano) is a NYC-based pianist from Japan who has enjoyed playing the piano since she was three years old. She performs at various venues and performance spaces around NYC, including theaters, live music venues, bars, schools, churches and hospitals. Some of her favorite musical credits include "Jesus Christ Superstar", "West Side Story", "Into the Woods", and "Guys and Dolls".

Satoko is the keyboardist of Walrus, a jam band performing the music of the Beatles. She also performs with cover bands playing the music of Steely Dan, Grateful Dead and more.

**JULIE ARMSTRONG** (Viola) was born in 2008 in New York City. She has been playing the viola since she was 9 years old and is a 12th grade student at The Frank Sinatra School of the Arts. In March 2024, she played the role of the violinist (Tyler) in her school's musical "Titanic". This performance was selected for the annual Shubert Foundation High School Theatre Festival on

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Broadway.(Winter Garden Theater)  
She was selected to perform with the New York Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (Conducted by Gustavo Dudamel) and The New York Youth Orchestra Program (Crescendo, Chamber), Inter School Orchestra of New York in 2024-25. In this program she had the opportunity to performed at Merkin Hall and Carnegie Hall.

**YUKA KATSUBE** (Composer) started playing piano at the age of 3. She graduated from the Tokyo College of Music, Department of Instrumental Music as a Piano Major. She passed the audition for the Ibaraki Prefecture Youth Concert and Won the third prize at the Spanish Music Competition in 2021. Member of CAPRICCIOSO, a group of four pianists active since 1996. Accompanist for vocal and choral music, she composes and arranges original music and musicals. Also active as a member of "Stella Blu" a unit with a clarinetist, mainly in Sendai City.

**KOTANI SHIBUKI** (Composer) was born in 2000. Kotani is a freelance engineer, guitarist and vocalist in the rock band "yu're". He is also a composer and manipulator in the band "Unstoppable and Thirst," who are mainly active in Tokyo. His roots are in complex acoustics influenced by Japanese math rock, Cornwall, and spectral music.

**JULIAN GHADIMI** (Lighting design) is excited to be

back for another production of Miracle of the Star. Currently a freshman in college studying urban planning, he has been involved in theatre and lighting design since age thirteen. His past work includes productions with Different Directions and the Ziegfeld Society.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Hiro Watanabe  
Akiko Yamazaki  
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Seiko Kataoka  
Mayumi Kanda  
Nami Shimamura  
Ryoko Sato